

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

October 11, 2007

Contact Person

Paul W. Connell
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jeffrey Heckel, 42, of Bemidji, Minnesota, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 30 months in prison and ordered to pay \$15,672 in restitution, for committing mail fraud.

Heckel listed rare coins and toys for sale on eBay.com and Yahoo.com under the business name of Somerset Coins. On May 3, 2003, Heckel listed a coin for sale on Yahoo.com for \$3000. After the winner of the auction from Washington state mailed a check as payment for the coin, Heckel delivered a coin worth only \$10. Seven individuals were scammed by Heckel and lost \$15,672.

The charges against Heckel were the result of an investigation conducted by U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Wisconsin Department of Consumer Protection. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

#